

Annual ————— Report 2024

Providing dance services and education across
Western Australia

auSDANCE
WA

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The community of Ausdance WA acknowledges the Traditional Owners of all Lands and Countries on this continent. We pay particular respect to Elders, Cultural and Community Leaders, and emerging leaders. With this understanding of the country's First Peoples, we are grateful for our place in learning and serving dance, arts and culture in Western Australia.

Always Was. Always Will Be.

OUR COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY

Ausdance WA is committed to fostering a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment for all children and young people engaged in dance. We actively support initiatives that increase awareness, understanding, and compliance with child safety practices across the dance sector.

Through collaboration, education, and best practice, we strive to empower our community to prioritise the wellbeing and protection of children in all aspects of their involvement in dance.



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About Ausdance WA

Ausdance WA is the peak service body for advocacy, promotion, participation and education for dance in Western Australia.

Established in 1977, Ausdance WA is a not for profit membership organisation, providing support services to dance artists, teachers in schools, studios and community cultural and recreational contexts, and dance companies and organisations across the state. We exist to ensure West Australians have access to the best experiences of dance - as participants, audiences, creators and performers. We do this through the delivery of a suite of programs offering access and participation, education and training, employment, and promotion of artists and companies, along with audience development and, therefore, contribute significantly to the capacity building and sustainability of the sector. We support engagement with dance across all ages, all genres, all abilities, and across the state. As part of a national network, Ausdance WA contributes to the national voice representing the dance sector.

Mission Statement

To educate, inspire and support the dance community in reaching its potential as a dynamic force within local, national and international communities.

Our Vision

To be a voice and provide leadership for dance in Western Australia as its leading advocate, and to be a sustainable organisation that is well prepared for future challenges, provides accessible platforms for information and dialogue, and contributes to the growth and profile of the sector.

Our Aims

- a. To provide a voice in the development of dance in Western Australia.
- b. To provide leadership in dance education, advocacy, lobbying, policy development and debate.
- c. To champion innovation, creativity and diversity in dance.
- d. To encourage access to and understanding of dance in communities throughout Australia.
- e. To assist in the identification and promotion of all dance traditions which exist in Australia, in recognition of their cultural importance.
- f. To foster national links with dance and dance related organisations.

Our Values

- Inclusivity
- Diversity
- Excellence
- Accountability
- Sustainability

Key Priorities for Ausdance WA

Strengthen sector networks & resource access

- Expand and strengthen strategic partnership initiatives
- Develop/facilitate live and virtual opportunities for engagement and participation across WA

Capacity building & industry sustainability

- Identify and respond to industry issues and needs
- Provide programs to support sustainable sector development
- Build online communication resources to strengthen sector capacity
- Sustain viable revenue streams for the organisation

Access, engagement & participation

- Facilitate and develop programs that enable participation across WA
- Promote the work of members & the organisation nationally & globally
- Raise membership and E-News subscribers

Advocacy & development of artform & sector

- Provide representation for WA dance to key government figures
- Establish mechanisms & programs to support WA dance initiatives

Building Ausdance WA organisation capacity & sustainability.

- Strengthening the organisation via board & committee's development
- Ensure operational, financial, marketing & specific plans are in place
- Secure sustainable and diverse revenue streams for the organisation & new income streams

Chair's Foreword



Having assumed the role of Chair in November 2024, I am pleased to reflect on the strong foundations laid by the Board and Secretariat in rebuilding Ausdance WA following the challenges of the post-COVID period.

Their leadership, ethical governance, and financial stewardship have been instrumental in revitalising the organisation, enabling significant progress to be made in key areas such as dance industry consultation, child safety, traineeships, national teacher accreditation, and advocacy.

I extend my sincere gratitude to outgoing President and Chair, Simon Owen, for his years of dedicated service, as well as to the Board for their expertise and guidance in navigating Ausdance WA through this challenging period. This report would be remiss without acknowledging the exceptional contributions of our immediate past Director, Gabrielle Sullivan, and our current Executive Director, Amy Wiseman. Both are highly regarded across the dance community, and their leadership has ensured Ausdance WA remains resilient and forward-focused.

Gabrielle recognised the critical need for strategic recovery post-pandemic, spearheading efforts to rebuild dance education and advocacy across schools, studios, and communities. Building on Gabrielle's legacy, Amy has led a series of sector-wide consultations, supported by the Department of Local Government, Sports and Cultural Industries.

These efforts culminated in the //IN MOTION// report, which outlines key priorities and strategies to shape the future of dance in Western Australia. After two decades away from dance education, I have been deeply impressed by the evolution of the K-12 Dance curriculum.

The Year 12 ATAR curriculum, in particular, articulates the profound value of dance with striking clarity:

“As a physical art form, dance offers students the opportunity to achieve an elite level of movement proficiency. It fosters understanding of physical competencies—such as experiential anatomy, strength, flexibility, coordination, and rhythmic

precision—while empowering students to use the body as a medium for artistic expression.”

This vision has strengthened our advocacy, expanding into new areas such as health and allied sectors. Through partnerships with schools, TAFEs, and universities, Ausdance WA is working to position dance as a viable and rewarding pathway in post-secondary education.

Child safety has also emerged as a critical priority in light of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Ausdance WA is committed to fostering safe, inclusive environments for young dancers, aligning with national child safety principles. As Chair, I am proud of the resources we are developing to support this essential reform.

Looking ahead, we will continue to collaborate with our members, the dance industry, and the broader community to ensure dance in Western Australia thrives—enriching lives, nurturing creativity, and exploring innovative applications of dance in all of its forms that benefit individuals and society alike.

Gary Hodge
Chair

“I was afforded the opportunity to review Gary's comments introducing this Annual Report. I generally take the view that there is nothing gained for the 'old guard' to offer any thoughts or comment upon the vision for the future, which is entirely the provenance of the 'new'. I see no reason to reconsider that view, other than to say that in welcoming Amy last year, and recently Gary, I rest not only 'easy', but relieved that there is such capability and enthusiasm to keep Ausdance WA both vibrant and relevant. Fair winds to all who sail on ...”

Simon Owen, Outgoing Chair

Director's Report



2024 was a huge year of change and regrowth for Ausdance WA.

//IN MOTION// Consultation

The //IN MOTION// Dance Sector Consultation was a critical research initiative for the WA dance sector. The consultation provided a detailed analysis on the challenges faced by the sector after COVID-19 and Ausdance WA's inactivity, and importantly, recommendations to address these challenges. For the organisation, the project provided a crucial opportunity to reconnect directly with the sector after a period of pause, and to verify that our theories from previous research and ongoing relationships with the dance sector were in fact relevant and accurate. An unexpected and welcome outcome of the project was a clear recognition from the dance sector that an organisation like Ausdance WA has inherent value.

Developing the WA Dance Community

Our key strategic priorities for 2024 aside from the consultation have been Professional Development for teachers, Child Safety capacity building in dance, and Advocacy through a range of projects and initiatives. These programs are offered in support of Ausdance WA's goals of leading and developing the Western Australian dance community through promoting the value of dance, encouraging and supporting participation in dance across all sectors of the community, both professional and amateur, and providing services, information and advocacy in support of our membership.

Rebuilding and Reconnecting

Recommencing the organisation again after a period of pause involved many hands-on tasks which would be remiss to overlook - from changing banks and setting up new accounts, to rebuilding the board and reviewing our processes.

Personally, one of the highlights of the year has been reestablishing relationships - through meetings, gatherings, presentations or simply over a coffee. We deeply appreciate the support and generosity of our members, stakeholders and wider community throughout this period, and it has been wonderful to reconnect.

Thank You

I'd like to once again thank the enormous dedication and leadership of outgoing Director Gabrielle Sullivan, who steered the organisation for nearly a decade through particularly challenging times and was instrumental in securing a future for Ausdance here in WA. I also extend my gratitude to outgoing Chair Simon Owen for his extensive time and commitment to the role since 2016.

A heartfelt thank you goes to the team—Christina Kasahara and Amanda Scoble—as well as our hardworking Board for their tireless energy and passion in supporting the organisation to ensure we can continue to provide leadership, services, and resources to the dance sector.

I am continually buoyed by the generosity, positivity and gumption of every person working in dance across all roles, levels and genres, and I look forward to continuing to build capacity for the sector through listening, supporting and connecting in 2025 and beyond.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Amy Wiseman'.

Amy Wiseman
Executive Director

Management

Board

Chair	Simon Owen (to November 2024)
Chair	Gary Hodge (from November 2024)
Secretary	Lisa Honczarenko (to April 2024)
Secretary	Dr. Maria Gamble (from June 2024)
Treasurer	Tatiana Kozyreva
Members	Deanna Faust (from April 2024) Amanda Leigh (from April 2024) Nina Levy (from April 2024)

Personnel

Director	Gabrielle Sullivan (0.2FTE to April, then voluntarily to June 2024)
Executive Director	Amy Wiseman (0.4FTE)
Marketing and Membership Officer	Christina Kasahara (0.4FTE commenced February 2024)
Finance Officer	Amanda Scoble (Contracted)

Volunteers

A number of dance industry professionals, teachers, studio owners and independent artists have contributed time and knowledge to support Ausdance WA in 2024, including those in our Advisory committees.

Thank-you to Terri Charlesworth OAM, Diana de Vos OAM, Jessica Wynn, Narelle Codalonga, Tarryn Runkel, Vanessa Best, Mollie McPhail, Rachael Bott, Kate Buchan, Deby Holmes, Sharon Dalla Costa, Tania Shillington, Kristal Twight, Kristin Keighery, Natasha McCann, Jacinta Ehlers, Rita Nita, and Amanda Leigh.

Special Thanks

Thanks also to the wonderful team at Cleaver Street & Co. Co-Working Space, for hosting us throughout 2024, both through the consultation meetings, and as a shared office space.

Funding & Donations

Our contribution to the dance sector is made possible by support from our members and through investment from our funding partners. Ausdance WA were successful with a grant from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) Sector Development \$15k-plus (Round 3), granting the organisation with \$60k to “Reboot the organisation - industry-informed development of critical services and advocacy”.

Ausdance WA were also successful in the DLGSC Annual Program of Activities (Round 23/24), granting the organisation \$80k for “Capacity Building”, following the sector consultation in the first half of 2024.

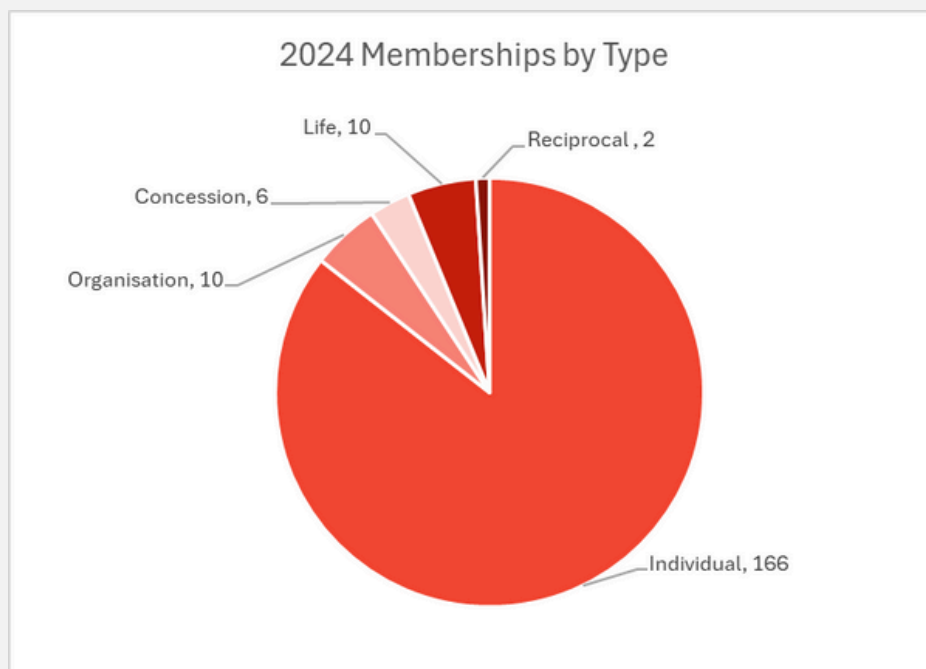
Ausdance WA also put together a small EOFY campaign, detailing the achievements in the first half of 2024 appealing for further support in order to give more back to the sector. The campaign raised \$2687 thanks to generous & invested community members.

Memberships

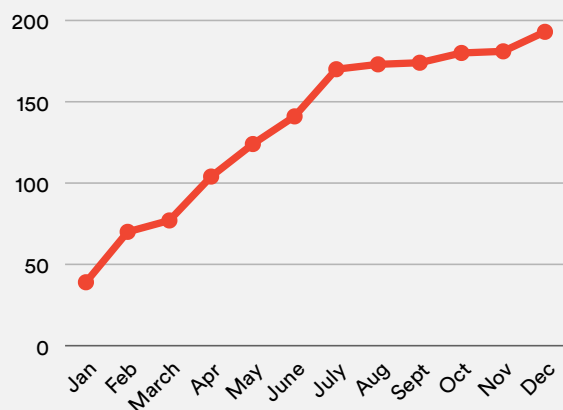
Details & Statistics

In order to renew our networks and communication channels, Ausdance WA offered a Free Membership Initiative from 1 November 2023 to 30 June 2024. This supported broader uptake of the Dance Industry Consultation both in person and via online survey in mid 2024. Between the free membership initiative and revitalised communications, Ausdance WA had 145 members sign up between 1 Nov 2023 and 30 June 2024. Of these, a lower number of members than expected chose to pay for their membership, with only 11 paid sign-ups during this period. A further 24 paid members signed up between 1 July and 31 Dec 2024, most likely driven by marketing our Professional Development programs.

While the membership growth slowed over the second half of 2024, it did continue to grow, indicating renewed engagement and investment. A key measure for 2025 will be the retention of those members who signed up during the Free Membership Initiative. As a comparison, active membership was at 199 members in 2019, and had dropped to 36 members (including 10 life members) by 2023.



Total Memberships	194	Membership Fees
Individual	166	\$33 Concession
Organisation	10	\$66 Individual
Concession	6	\$110 Organisation
Life	10	
Reciprocal	2	



Membership Growth 2024

Ausdance WA offered free membership from Dec 2023 to June 2024 in order to rebuild networks. While membership growth slowed from Jul-Dec 2024, it did continue to grow. Retention as these members convert to paid memberships will be key over the next 6-12 months.

NB: Initial member numbers include life and reciprocal members.

Member Benefits

- Discounted Education Programs (Professional Development series)
- Information and Dance sector updates via monthly e-news
- Employment opportunities - Ausdance WA hires members, including local dance teachers, workshop leaders, and guest presenters, for annual programming
- Marketing Support and Event Promotion - exclusive event promotion on our social media, subject to alignment with our values and standards
- Member discounts - partnerships with retailers and local businesses who offer a specialised discount for their services
- Specialist advisory services
- Affiliate membership with World Dance Alliance
- Letters of support for project funding
- Auspicing for projects (if capacity permits)
- A voice in the future of dance in WA

Marketing

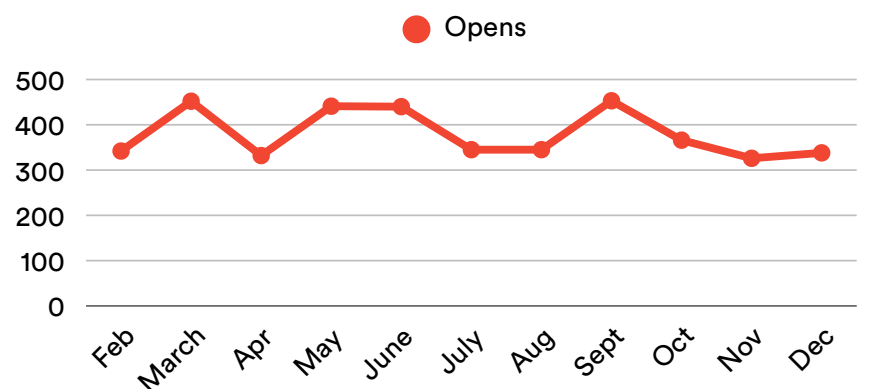
As well as focusing on reconnection with members, Ausdance WA also began to rebuild its website; updating content, evaluating user experience and managing memberships. Ausdance WA re-established communication strategies with monthly E-news EDMs (electronic direct mail), social media sector engagement, and promotion of events.

Ausdance WA engaged photographer Christophe Canato and two dancers - Mia Beame and Safiya Karolia, for a photoshoot in August 2024 to develop marketing and photographic content. An A5 postcard and a pull-up banner were also created using new photo content and a QR code to the website. These were distributed at Professional Development workshops, and presentations with ACHPER WA and DramaWest to promote Ausdance WA's activity and membership.

E-news

The Ausdance WA E-news newsletter recommenced in February 2024. Each issue, featuring news, sector updates, and promotion of events and performances was sent monthly throughout 2024, with 11 issues in total. The audience of 1000 subscribers, including current members and broader community, engaged with the e-news with open rates consistently higher than industry standards. We received anecdotal feedback throughout the year that the community were thrilled to see the Ausdance WA E-news return, particularly the sector news updates, building knowledge across education and pathways, and a sense of connection across the dance sector.

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTERS FEBRUARY - DECEMBER 2024



Subscribers

973

Average open rate 34.0%



Average subscribe rate 200.0%



Average click rate 4.5%



Average unsubscribe rate 0.2%

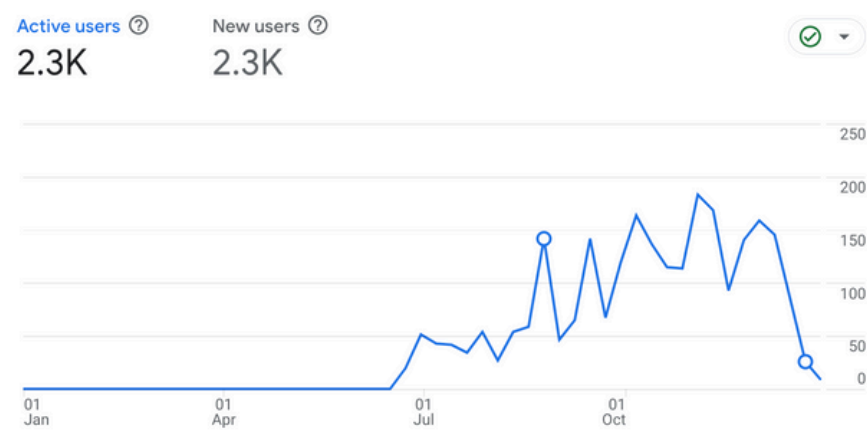
Website

The Ausdance WA team updated website content throughout 2024 to reflect current activity and priorities, including Home, About Us, Projects and Membership and Services pages. One of the challenges identified early in 2024, was the age and functionality of the website, with limitations in the online services it could offer members, particularly relating to a gated online Member Hub for resources. With results from the //IN MOTION// Report indicating the need for Ausdance WA to be a connector; referring and informing the dance sector about key information, events and initiatives, it became clear that updates to the Ausdance WA website were urgently required.

The Ausdance WA team applied for an Arts and Creative Business Development grant to the DLGSC in September 2024 to better resource the organisation and in turn, provide better services and capacity to the sector. The application, while ‘highly competitive’ was unsuccessful, with only 18 of the 58 applications funded in that round. The Board and Executive team continue to look at alternative grants and investment of funds to make improvements in 2025. Upgrade priorities are Membership sign-up process (including lack of automation in cancelling the annual Free Membership initiative), better integration of applications and automation, and developing a Member’s Only Hub to host resources and benefits only accessible by the membership.

One unexpected area of development for the website in 2024, was the publication of a number of articles and reviews on the Blog. This small revival of Ausdance WA’s previous achievements in publication (dancewest magazine, and then dancewest online magazine) ensured a tangible record of processes and performances could be recognised, and filled a necessary gap, with SeeSaw Magazine under review. This section of the website serves an important purpose to inform and educate in both short and longer form pieces.

WEBSITE USERS JUNE - DECEMBER 2024



TOP PAGES

Page title and screen class		Views
Total		5,881
		100% of total
1	My Account - AUSDANCE WA	776
2	Ausdance WA - Education, Support & Advocacy for Dance	769
3	Professional Development for Teachers - AUSDANCE WA	700
4	Ausdance WA Membership - Join today for fantastic benefits.	245
5	Cart - AUSDANCE WA	197
6	Learn more about AUSDANCE WA - The leading dance service organisation.	184
7	//IN MOTION// - AUSDANCE WA	177
8	A coming of age for Momentum Dance - AUSDANCE WA	169
9	Checkout - AUSDANCE WA	161
10	Set Solo Workshops 2025 - AUSDANCE WA	153

Calendar Listings & Event Promotion

The dance sector has directly engaged through Ausdance WA's event calendar listings to promote events and opportunities in WA - a feature we anticipate will grow in appeal with more capacity to effectively market and build them into the existing website.

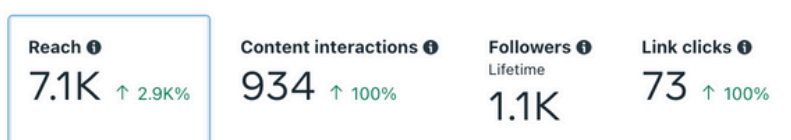
In order to represent the breadth of activity across the state as relationships are rebuilt, the team at Ausdance WA have also researched and shared additional content from a range of sources, from among our membership and the wider dance sector in WA. As our membership, reputation and capacity grows, we plan to ensure the promotion of activities and events remains a membership benefit first and foremost.

Social Media

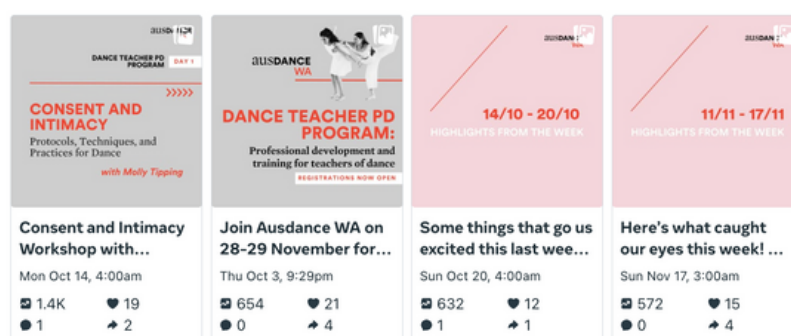
A range of content was published via social media to 1K Instagram & 3.1K Facebook followers, including promotion of initiatives //IN MOTION// and the Professional Development programs, promotion of surveys and sector initiatives, promotion of events, opportunities and performances, and excerpts from Ausdance national factsheets and resources.

SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS FEBRUARY - DECEMBER 2024

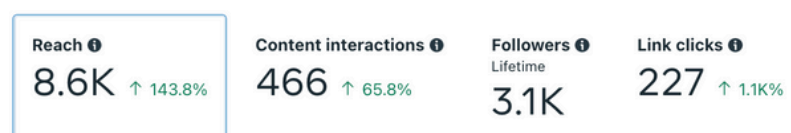
Instagram



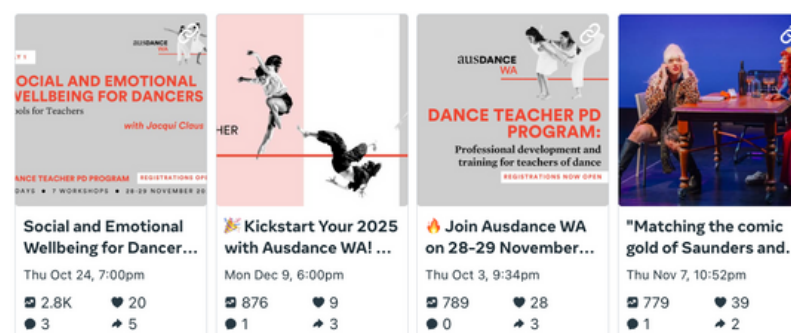
Top posts by reach



Facebook



Top posts by reach



Projects

//IN MOTION// WA Dance Sector Consultation and Report (March-June 2024)

Ausdance WA has a long history of research into the needs of the dance industry in WA. After limited capacity since March 2020, Ausdance WA proposed reinvigorating its services with a dance industry sector consultation. The consultation process identified gaps currently faced by the sector along with proposed strategies to address these. Significant needs and priorities within 5 sub-sectors of the dance community were investigated, gauging change within this time following Ausdance WA's inactivity and the impacts post COVID pandemic.

Independent consultant Rick Heath of PUSH Management was engaged, surveying:

- Teachers in schools
- Studio owners/teachers
- Subsidised dance companies
- Independent dancers
- Youth dance stakeholders, and
- Regional artists via an online forum

Participants could complete a comprehensive online survey and/or attend an in-person workshop. All data was compiled into a detailed report with clear recommendations.

The report can be viewed [HERE](#)

The industry consultation delivered a thorough and considered 'road map' for implementation of programs and initiatives to support identified needs of the dance sector. The report informs clear recommendations as an independent piece of research, yet an unintentional outcome of the consultation was that the results indicate an overwhelming need for a service organisation such as Ausdance WA to exist. This existence ensures that the value, visibility and voice of dance is maintained and championed, and that the dance sector remains connected and informed. Identified priorities to support the dance sector have been ranked as high, medium or low recommendations across 10 categories. Ausdance WA can now use this research to lobby for better support, build capacity for the sector in the specific areas identified, and to initiate or delegate the recommendations within the organisation's current capacity. The report also provides important information for consideration by relevant policy makers, and has been shared widely to a range of stakeholders.



Consultation Involvement

- 72 survey responses
- 51 in person attendances across 5 workshops in Perth
- 5 attendees at the regional workshop held online via Zoom

Representation in the survey was broad, with the majority noting their primary area of involvement as either independent artists (31%) or teachers in schools (28%). Notably, 36% of respondents stated they worked in 'Other' areas of dance, including researchers, lecturers, students, dance company alumni, dance writers/critics, health professionals and board members.

Next Steps

The findings of the //IN MOTION// Report indicate 66 recommendations across 10 categories, ranking priorities, and also importantly, the role that Ausdance WA should play - whether to lead, initiate, influence, collaborate or pass on. Within organisation capacity, Ausdance WA Board and Executive will use this information to revise their Strategic Plan in 2025.

Testimonials

“Amy and Rick, this is a fantastic piece of work – comprehensive and compelling. I read it right through and then went back and re-read it, and the thing I love most about it is ... it all makes perfect sense. I really hope it gains traction, and that the recommendations can be adopted.”

Tania Hudson

Chief Executive Officer
Chamber of Arts and Culture WA

“Congratulations Ausdance – what a fantastic piece of work!”

Ann-Marie Ryan

Strategic Leader in Workforce Development
FutureNow

Child Safeguarding - Advisory Committee and Resource Development

When the state government implements legislation and responses to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Response to Child Sexual Abuse, the dance sector (including private dance studios) needs to be prepared and supported. As a sector with minimal regulation, it is essential that Ausdance WA has the capacity to communicate with and offer resources and training for those working with children in the dance sector.

As peak body, we continue to represent the broader dance industry in discussions for implementing the Royal Commission's recommendations, responding to discussion points on Child Safety in dance. The benefit and impact of this work will encourage safe spaces for students of dance in all contexts; and well-informed studio owners, teachers, competition and eisteddfod managers.

In 2024, Ausdance WA consulted with the Child Safeguarding Implementation Unit (DLGSC) to stay informed about current Child Safety practices and to determine the steps Western Australia has already taken toward developing statewide frameworks to monitor and oversee the implementation of the 10 National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. We have also referenced the work of similar organisations such as SportsWest and their TrueSport initiatives guiding Child Safe Principles and Sport Integrity Australia, in order to establish existing resource material and which areas need to be recontextualised for dance. Ausdance WA regularly contributes to conversations with the national Ausdance network, discussing the various phases of legislation and implementation between states and territories, and strategies to support the sector.

A key achievement in 2024 was the formation of a Child Safe Dance Advisory Committee, made up of nine dance industry representatives. The Advisory committee met across two sessions in late 2024, covering:

Meeting 1: October 2024

A review of the 10 National Principles in Child Safety. With this lens, we considered what are the areas of greatest concern for the safety of young people in dance; and what will likely be the biggest barriers for teachers/studio owners to implement changes.

Meeting 2: November 2024

A review of existing resources in related industries (eg. sport) and determining relevance / point of difference. We discussed which could work as they are, which needed small revisions and which need to be fully re-worked. Also discussed what a 'healthy culture' sounds like in a studio, and how do we know when it's working?

The discussions contributed to the development of a Child Safe landing page on the Ausdance WA website (published in early 2025) and a shortlist of dance-specific resources, templates and checklists in development which will support dance studio owners and teachers to more easily navigate this space.

Child Safe Dance Advisory Committee

Natasha McCann	Head of Education and Community Engagement, West Australian Ballet
Jacinta Ehlers	Independent Teacher and Dance Competition Manager
Rita Nita	Creative Director, Choreographer, Community Development Consultant, Cultural Events Coordinator, Ex-Studio Owner (Elan Dance Est.)
Sharon Dalla Costa	Managing Director, ATAR Dance Coordinator and Teacher – Youth Ballet WA
Kristal Twight and Kristin Keighery	Co-Owners, K2Dance
Tania Shillington	Committee Member, West Australian Classical Ballet Teachers Association, Physiotherapist and Ex-Studio Owner
Kate Buchan	Owner, Dance Etc., Starz Dance and Co-Owner Creative Dance Method
Amanda Leigh	Independent Teacher, Customer Experience, Ausdance WA Board Member





Professional Development for Teachers (Suite 1 - November 2024)

Ausdance WA has delivered Professional Development workshops and classes throughout its history. With annual program funding secured across 2024 and 2025 from DLGSC, two separate suites of Professional Development programs were proposed, one in November 2024, and one in February 2025.

The November suite included seven teacher workshops across two days, providing professional development for 24 dance teachers and educators. The content for these days was developed to address teaching contexts including private dance studio teachers, independent practitioners, and teachers in school with a curriculum focus (including ATAR, General and Cert level / VET). The workshops were held in Studio 1 at King Street Arts Centre.

Expanding Perspectives -

Day 1: Thursday 28 November 2024

Molly Tipping	Consent and Intimacy - Protocols, Techniques and Practices for Dance
Michelle Hovane	Multi-sensory and multi-modal communication for inclusion
Julia Hales and Laura Boynes	Dance for All - Inclusive approaches
Jacqui Hume	Social and Emotional Wellbeing for Dancers - Tools for Teachers

Focus on Curriculum -

Day 2: Friday 29 November 2024

McKenzie Goldsmith and Amy Wiseman	Strategies to Elevate Dance Vocabulary
Narelle Codalunga	Tribal Dance Unit
DLGSC Grants Team	Presentation on 'Creativity in Schools' Grant
Ella-Rose Trew	Youth-Led Choreographic Practice

Attendance at both sessions was positive, with 9 teachers on day 1 and 14 on day 2. During the lunch break on day 2, a presentation to discuss the DLGSC's Creativity in Schools grants program was also featured, and independent artists were also invited to attend this session.

A Teachers in School Advisory Committee was also formed in 2024 following the consultation, to advise on PD content. Thanks to Jessica Wynn, Narelle Codalunga, Tarryn Runkel, Vanessa Best, Mollie McPhail, and Rachael Bott for their time and expertise.

Testimonials

This was my first-ever professional development (PD) session specifically for dance, and it was an incredible experience. My background is in sport and health, but I've always dreamed of being a dance teacher. I've been teaching dance at studios since I was 12, and while I only completed my degree two months ago (graduating officially in February), I'm currently working as a sports teacher.

Just recently, I received the amazing news that I've been offered my dream job—a permanent, full-time position as a dance teacher at a wonderful school. Attending this PD has been the perfect way to step into this new chapter of my career. It was, without a doubt, the best PD I've ever attended. I've participated in many sport and health PDs, but they don't even come close to this one in terms of engagement and value.

I felt like I gained so much knowledge, and the entire session was tailored to my learning style. Honestly, I think it would resonate with all dance teachers! It was such a refreshing and inspiring experience—I truly felt like a sponge, absorbing every bit of information. I'm so excited to apply what I've learned as I begin this next phase of my teaching journey.

I thoroughly enjoyed the training, I felt like it was a great size group and the sessions were all relevant to me and my learning. I thought all the facilitators did an amazing job. The catering was appreciated and the whole day was organised and ran very smoothly by the amazing Amy & Christina :)

I thought the content was excellent and relevant for professional development. I would have liked more time on the two inclusivity sessions. Overall, I really enjoyed the day and thought the content and organisation was excellent. Thank you!

Establishment of Dance Teacher Traineeships

Ausdance WA have been working alongside FutureNow Creative and Leisure Industries Training Council over a number of years to support accessible pathways into training for dance teaching. The outcome of these opportunities also contributes to raising the standard of dance teaching and provides sustainable careers for West Australian workers. In May, a proposal was submitted to the State Training Board for the establishment of two traineeships for dance teachers in WA:

Certificate III in Assistant Dance Teaching Certificate IV in Dance Teaching and Management

The process involved extensive sector consultation, and was guided expertly by Ann-Marie Ryan at FutureNow. The initial timeline for an outcome in August was revised after further consultation was required late in 2024. An outcome is expected now in 2025.

National Dance Teacher Accreditation

After several approaches to Ausdance WA directly from the dance sector, Ausdance WA resumed the discussion of formalising dance teacher qualifications through a national accreditation register. Stakeholder meetings commenced in January 2024, and included representatives from professional dance companies, incorporated associations, individual teachers and industry representatives. The establishment of a register is sought to lift the standards of dance teaching across the profession and to set clear national benchmarks which promote consistency, whilst maintaining flexibility to meet individual needs.

This project has been initiated and revisited many times in Ausdance's history, however with the current emphasis and concern for child safety, the need for dance teacher knowledge and accountability have brought the conversation into focus again.

A Terms of Reference was finalised in April 2024 to consider the scope of the project. A timeline, research funding and industry consultation are also in development. Nationally, the Ausdance network has resumed the discussion about their role in advocating for furthering dance teacher education, and approaches to take given the lack of a regulatory body. If uptake is to be accessible, and suitable across all dance styles and at all levels and contexts, thorough research and consultation is required to ensure there is endorsement and uptake from the sector.



Advocacy and Representation

Advocacy

As the state advocacy body for dance, coupled with a voice in the national network, Ausdance WA champions the call for recognition of the value of the dance sector at every opportunity. We contribute to industry research, policy reviews and development and ensure that the voice for dance in Western Australia is heard at both state and national levels. We bring expert knowledge and input from key stakeholders to policy reviews and developments to ensure the best outcomes for our sector – companies, organisations, teachers across all contexts, and independent dance artists and students.

During 2024, Ausdance WA made a number of representations on behalf of the dance sector:

Outcomes from the //IN MOTION// Report

The Ausdance WA team held meetings with two representatives from DLGSC, as well as the CEO of Chamber of Arts and Culture to communicate key issues identified in the sector consultation, and strategies to address sector needs.

Kidsport Vouchers

Ausdance WA continues to advocate for dance of all styles to be included in the Kidsport voucher initiative. KidSport enables eligible Western Australian children aged 5 to 18 years to participate in community sport and recreational activity by offering them financial assistance of up to \$500 per financial year towards club fees. Ausdance WA has sought to clarify the classification of the DLGSC's 'recognised state sporting association' in WA to broaden the scope and ensure all forms of dance are represented and included. We recognise the significant benefit of this initiative both to families and their associated dance schools, and aim to remove barriers to access this program. During an internal review of the Kidsport voucher program in late 2024, Ausdance WA submitted participation statistics of dance practice in WA and a case study to advocate for the inclusion of dance in this initiative.

Dance Teacher Pay Rates and Conditions

Ausdance WA renewed communication with Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance in 2024 to discuss the Dancers Australia union and progress the inclusion of pay rates and working conditions for dance teachers, which is currently not part of the Code of Practice. Ausdance WA also

supported MEAA's survey regarding pay rates for teachers to reach as many dance teachers as possible to contribute to this important work.

Insurance and OneMusic

Ausdance WA continues to work alongside the National Ausdance Network to improve sector understanding of OneMusic Licensing requirements. The network have also been developing a relationship with a new Insurance broker to offer a relevant and competitive rate for the dance industry, which will be launched in 2025.

Submissions

Ausdance WA have sent submissions to Creative Australia's report compiled by Sue Giles and Simon Abrahams for Child, Young People and the Arts, and submitted feedback to the Child Safety Annual Reporting Process.

The national Ausdance network also collaborated on a PreBudget submission to the Federal Government, submitted in December 2024. The case argued that dance is more than just entertainment - it is essential! - from improving mental health to creating jobs, dance impacts millions of Australians. Yet funding falls short.

WAAPA Buildings

Ausdance WA have consulted with a range of stakeholders throughout 2024 to advocate for the future of the dance studios in Mount Lawley and their outcome when the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) move to the new ECU City campus in 2026. These purpose-built dance and movement studios are an important asset to the dance sector, given the obvious lack of appropriate rehearsal and performance space available in Perth. We will continue to advocate for their preservation.

WA Dance Organisations Gatherings

Following the sector consultation, Ausdance WA also reinstated regular gatherings with WA professional dance companies and producing organisations in order to strengthen communication and collaboration. The first gathering was held in October 2024 and was attended by key representatives from West Australian Ballet, Co3, STRUT Dance, Marrugeku, PICA, The Blue Room Theatre, Performing Lines and Perth Festival.

Representation

Within our limited capacity, we talk to people each week, providing advice to members, connecting members to the industry, advocating to governments and ensuring we remain connected on the sector's behalf. Staff and Board members have represented Ausdance WA in committees, meetings and events, including:

- National Ausdance Network (monthly meetings)
- Creative Australia and Creative Workplaces
- Dept of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
- Media, Entertainment, and Arts Alliance
- Network of National Dance Organisations
- Office for the Arts
- Chamber of Arts and Culture WA
- Service and Creative Skills Australia
- School Curriculum and Standards Authority
- Child Safeguarding Implementation Unit
- Sport Integrity Australia
- Theatre Network of Australia Gatherings
- Queensland Dance Education Conference
- Stakeholders for Youth Dance in WA
- FutureNow - Creative and Leisure Industries Training Council
- WAAPA Dance Consultative Committee
- Circuitwest's WA Showcase
- ACHPER WA State conference - presentation
- Dramawest State Conference - presentation
- ArtsPeak - Peak Organisations Group (via network)
- Tertiary Dance Council of Australia (via network)
- World Dance Alliance (via network)



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Acknowledgements

Ausdance WA photography by Christophe Canto,
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